(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines on merger and amalgamation between private sector banks and with NBFCs on 11th May, 2005. The guidelines are available on the website of RBI *i.e.* www.rbi.org.in/notification. RBI has discretionary powers to approve the voluntary amalgamation of two banking companies. Amalgamations are normally decided by RBI on business considerations such as the need for increasing the market shares, synergies in the operations of businesses, acquisition of a business unit or segment, sound rationale for the amalgamation, the systemic benefits and the advantage accruing to the residual entity, etc.

(d) Does not arise.

White Paper on disinvestment

1641. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to publish a White Paper on disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Private banks credit to agricultural sector

1642. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target for outflow of agricultural credit by private banks has been fixed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private bank has not met the target; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?